

Abstract

This diploma thesis investigates the evolution of news coverage of water-related issues in the Czech daily press from 2014 to 2019. Its theoretical part describes the relationship between mass media and the environment. The characteristics of environmental news are explained more in detail and in the context of environmental topics' features, journalistic routines, news normative demands and economic pressure in the media industry. The topic of the thesis is linked to the media theories about news values, gatekeeping, agenda-setting and framing as well. There is also a review of the studies examining news coverage of the environment and a brief description of the water management situation in the Czech Republic. The methodical part introduces the research goal and previous studies which were used as a base for the method in this paper. The results of the content analysis enabled to describe the news about water issues quantitatively and to explain its features and development according to the theoretical framework and previous findings. This thesis concluded that Czech dailies do not treat the topic of water issues as very important, they are event-oriented, dependent on the official sources and focused on risk-related topics. This can limit public awareness of the problem with decreasing water resources.